Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from public meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2025
6 pm – 8:00 pm

Attending: Cate, Gordon, Dave, Roger
Online: Maxfield, Gabe
Quorum? yes

1. Call to order (6:10 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. Roger reported that ribbon cutting ceremony planning is underway and will have more to share at our August meeting.
            1. Event date: 9/13
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting (6/12)
        i. Moved by Dave with a second from Cate
        ii. Results: yes (5), abstain (1); motion passed
3. Public comment
    a. none
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Some high-quality trails have been built by Sinuosity. They are progressing towards completion and have said that they will be done on time. They requested for someone to mow the fields.
    b. Maintenance update
        i. Dave reported that he has slowed down on the fieldwork due to tick population. He has since found a new protective spray will get back to it soon.
        ii. Gordon reported Rhoda Bedell passed away recently and that their family has requested that we name a trail after her and her husband. **Trail naming will be added to August agenda.**

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Once Sinuosity has wrapped up their trail-building on 8/1, we will get map to work with.

c. Forest management update
    i. Site mapping of water quality concerns from prior logging operations
        1. Gordon, Roger and Luke met virtually on July 9 with Emily Potter (Lamoille County Rorester), Rick Dyer (VANR, AMP Forester), and Silas Rainville (VANR, Watershed Forester) to discuss water quality issues mentioned in previous meetings. Luke reported several different funding sources for remediation work along the existing logging roads and surrounding areas. Some of them have really tight deadlines. All applications require a formal inventory of all water quality issues within the town forest. Silas was pushing for the Lake Champlain Water District crew to head the forest inventory effort, as it would minimize the need for training, and that there was not much of a volunteer component at this time. Several areas of the forest were discussed to reinforce the need for moving forward with active management projects. When discussing the Tony Smith property as a potential access point, it was mentioned that it will likely be donated to the town forest through NRLT.
            a. **Gordon was unsure if a town vote was necessary for this process, and mentioned that he would follow up with Linda.**

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   b. **Dave and Gordon will approach the surrounding landowners and discuss possibilities for site access.**
   c. **Luke will walk the land and engage with Emily Potter, Silas, and the NRPC. He will write a silvicultural prescription and draft a prospectus.**
   d. **Roger will compile a map set for use during meetings**

2. Maxfield suggested placing informational placards around the forest to educate the town about why certain management actions were taken
3. **Roger made a motion for Luke Hardt to provide services to walk the property, engage with Emily Potter in order to write a prospectus and a silvicultural prescription based on what's discovered to inform potential future actions related to forest management, which was seconded by Cate.**
   a. **Results: yes (6); motion passed**

5. New business (7 pm)
   a. Town BBQ
      i. **Next month, more details**
      ii. **Gordon and Roger will engage Bradley to develop signage for the town forest.**
6. Adjourn (7:40 pm)